

the coastal strip (apart from the estuarine occurrences along the Swan River), and are indicative of an expansion of range. It would be interesting to find out what is happening in the area south and south-west of Mogumber. It would appear that like the Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) and other species mentioned by Serventy & Whittell (*ibid.*, p. 60) these Eyrean species are steadily advancing into the South-West corner.

—D. A. ROOK, Nedlands.

Wire Nests of Magpies.—Magpie nests constructed largely of pieces of wire are not infrequently reported and two Western Australian examples have been described in some detail (C. S. Hamilton, *Gould League Notes*, 1949-50: 25; D. L. Serventy, *W.A. Nat.*, 2, 1949: 46). It may be of interest to provide details of two other such nests which I have recently examined.

Nest no. 1: Constructed of wire, twigs, dried and denuded buffalo grass runners, and fine rootlets. There were 73 pieces of wire and they varied in length from 5 in. to 7 ft. 2 in. Most of the wire was less than 2.0 mm. in thickness but a few pieces were between 2.0 and 3.0 mm., and one 25 in. length of clothesline wire weighed 40.5 gm. One piece of wire 3 ft. 4 in. long had the ends joined and was in the approximate shape of a square. There were several lengths of plastic insulated wire, in red, yellow, white and brown colours, and rubber insulated wire in black and red colours. Interlaced with the wire were 14 twigs of varying thickness. The largest was 15 in. and the shortest was 7 in. The 134 pieces of buffalo grass varied from 5 in. in length to 6 ft. 2 in. in length and were woven in the shape of a circular bowl. Entwined with the grass were 10 thin twigs between 6 and 12 in. long. Approximately 100 small pieces of very fine rootlets and one small piece of bark furnished the lining to the nest. Lengths of wire joined or twisted together have been counted as one. The nest had been built in 1962 in a eucalypt growing in a park at Claremont.

Nest no. 2: Constructed of wire, rope, leaves and dried grass. The wire, which was of various thicknesses and lengths, weighed a total of 4.14 kilograms. There was a total of 321 pieces of wire, particulars of which are as follows:—

(a) wire 1.0 to 2.0 mm. thick—129 pieces. The longest piece was 7 ft. and the shortest 3 in.

(b) wire 2.0 to 2.5 mm. thick—47 pieces. The longest piece was 28 in. and the shortest 3.5 in.

(c) wire 2.5 to 3.0 mm. thick—136 lengths. The longest piece was 31 in. and the shortest 4 in.

(d) wire 3.0 to 3.5 mm. thick—3 pieces, the longest being 18 in. and the shortest 10.5 in.

(e) wire 3.5 to 4.0 mm. thick—4 pieces. The longest which weighed 33.5 gm., was 18 in. and the shortest 15.5 in.

(f) one piece of barbed fencing wire 16 in. in length.

(g) one piece of three-strand wire 18 in. in length.

Any two pieces of wire joined or twisted together have been counted as one and the wire was measured as it came from the nest—it was not straightened out. Included in the wire framework were two twigs 6 in. long and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick.

A short length of rope, which was very frayed and mostly in single strands, a few eucalyptus leaves, two white feathers and a handful of dried grass furnished the lining to the nest. This nest was found in a eucalypt in 1960 on the Dale River, 12 miles west of Brookton.

— R. H. STRANGER, Wembley.

OBITUARY

BRUCE W. LEAKE

Bruce Wyborn Leake, a foundation member of the W.A. Naturalists' Club, and a noted Kellerberrin naturalist, died in Perth on July 22, 1962. He was born at Cobham, York, on June 11, 1880, son of Robert Buck Leake, who pioneered the family's Kellerberrin properties by settling at Mooranoppin in 1868. Bruce Leake lived at "Cardonia," Woolundra, near Kellerberrin, where he established a merino stud. He carried on active farming until 1960 when he retired to live at Mt. Lawley.



Bruce W. Leake, 1921

Though he was a keen field naturalist, and he was a foundation member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union as well as of the Naturalists' Club, these farming activities took an increasingly large part of his time and he was compelled to allow his membership to lapse. During his ornithologically active period several visiting naturalists called on him at "Cardonia." The ornithologist Tom Carter stayed there on several occasions (including January 1903, May 1919 and March 1922) and collected bird specimens. At the close of the first R.A.O.U. congress in W.A., in October 1920,